

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of

T. Matsumoto

Serial No.

Filed: August 29, 2001

For: ELECTRONIC MAIL MANAGEMENT METHOD AND MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Prior to examination, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS

Amend claims 3-21 as follows:

3. (Once Amended) The electronic mail management method according to claim 1, wherein the first and second unopened time limits and/or notification destinations are set in accordance with a combination of mail addresses of the recipient and the sender.

4. (Once Amended) The electronic mail management method according to claim 1, wherein the first and second unopened time limits and/or notification destinations are set in accordance with a keyword contained in a title of the electronic mail.

5. (Once Amended) The electronic mail management method according to claim 1, wherein information about a time zone where the notification can be performed to the recipient or sender of electronic mail or the time zone where an unopened state is not to be calculated.

6. (Once Amended) The electronic mail management method according to claim 1, wherein the contents of notification are made to differ according to whether the notification destination of unopened information is the recipient or sender.

7. (Once Amended) The electronic mail management method according to claim 1, wherein as a mail address of a notification source when unopened notification is performed to another mail address of the recipient is used the mail address of the original electronic mail sending source and as a mail address of a notification source when unopened notification is performed to the electronic mail sending source is used a unique mail address on the electronic mail management system.

8. (Once Amended) The electronic management method according to claim 1, wherein charging is performed to the user in accordance with the results to which the unopened notification is performed.

9. (Once Amended) The electronic mail management method according to claim 1, wherein a fee is charged to the user in accordance with communication charges when the unopened notification is made using a notification method in which the communication charges are applied.

14. (Once Amended) The electronic mail management method according to claim 10, wherein charging to the user is performed in accordance with the number of setting items to the unopened notification condition master.

15. (Once Amended) The electronic mail management method according to claim 1, wherein the number of received mail items that is an unopened notification management object for each recipient and the number of received mail items for which the unopened notification is performed to the mail sending source among the mail items are held and the mail management information of the recipient created based on the information is provided.

16. (Once Amended) The electronic mail management method according to claim 1, wherein a program is enabled on a computer.

19. (Once Amended) The electronic mail management system according to claim 17, wherein a time zone in which the notification of unopened information is made or not made, or

an unopened state is to be calculated or not to be calculated can be set in the unopened notification condition master.

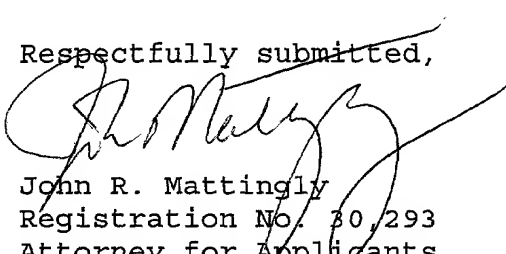
20. (Once Amended) The electronic mail management system according to claim 17, wherein the setting of a keyword contained in the title of received mail and the setting of the unopened time limit, notification destination and notification method combined with the keyword can be set in the unopened notification condition master.

21. (Once Amended) The electronic mail management system according to any one of claim 17, wherein a program is enabled on a computer.

REMARKS

Examination is requested.

Respectfully submitted,


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MARKED UP VERSION OF REWRITTEN CLAIMS

3. (Once Amended) The electronic mail management method according to claim 1 [or 2], wherein the first and second unopened time limits and/or notification destinations are set in accordance with a combination of mail addresses of the recipient and the sender.

4. (Once Amended) The electronic mail management method according to claim 1, [2 or 3,] wherein the first and second unopened time limits and/or notification destinations are set in accordance with a keyword contained in a title of the electronic mail.

5. (Once Amended) The electronic mail management method according to [any one of] claim[s] 1 [to 4], wherein information about a time zone where the notification can be performed to the recipient or sender of electronic mail or the time zone where an unopened state is not to be calculated.

6. (Once Amended) The electronic mail management method according to [any one of] claim[s] 1 [to 5], wherein the contents of notification are made to differ according to whether the notification destination of unopened information is the recipient or sender.

7. (Once Amended) The electronic mail management method according to [any one of] claim[s] 1 [to 6], wherein as a mail address of a notification source when unopened notification is performed to another mail address of the recipient is used the

mail address of the original electronic mail sending source and as a mail address of a notification source when unopened notification is performed to the electronic mail sending source is used a unique mail address on the electronic mail management system.

8. (Once Amended) The electronic management method according to [any one of] claim[s] 1 [to 7], wherein charging is performed to the user in accordance with the results to which the unopened notification is performed.

9. (Once Amended) The electronic mail management method according to [any one of] claim[s] 1 [to 7], wherein a fee is charged to the user in accordance with communication charges when the unopened notification is made using a notification method in which the communication charges are applied.

14. (Once Amended) The electronic mail management method according to [any one of] claim[s] 10 [to 13], wherein charging to the user is performed in accordance with the number of setting items to the unopened notification condition master.

15. (Once Amended) The electronic mail management method according to claim[s] 1 [to 14], wherein the number of received mail items that is an unopened notification management object for each recipient and the number of received mail items for which the unopened notification is performed to the mail sending source among the mail items are

held and the mail management information of the recipient created based on the information is provided.

16. (Once Amended) The electronic mail management method according to claim[s] 1 [to 15], wherein a program is enabled on a computer.

19. (Once Amended) The electronic mail management system according to claim 17 [or 18], wherein a time zone in which the notification of unopened information is made or not made, or an unopened state is to be calculated or not to be calculated can be set in the unopened notification condition master.

20. (Once Amended) The electronic mail management system according to claim 17, [18 or 19,] wherein the setting of a keyword contained in the title of received mail and the setting of the unopened time limit, notification destination and notification method combined with the keyword can be set in the unopened notification condition master.

21. (Once Amended) The electronic mail management system according to any one of claim[s] 17 [to 20], wherein a program is enabled on a computer.